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# Advocate of Peace.

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## The Direct Fruit of War.

One of the worst and most unexpected fruits of the Russo-Japanese war is the spirit of suspicion and vituperation toward Japan which has been so widely and shamefully manifested within the last three or four months in this country. For that is what, in the last analysis, it really is—the fruit of that war. The very nature of war is to create further strife and division, and to spread the flames of suspicion, contention and hatred into new fields.

No one can ever tell, when a war breaks out, where its evil results will fall most heavily. Not a man would have believed it possible, when the war with Spain was begun ten years ago, that it would end in the over-running and merciless crushing and subjugation of the Philippines by the armies of the United States. So the idea would have been scouted, when Japan was in the terrible struggle with Russia in Manchuria and carried with her the almost universal sympathy of the people of this country, that before two years had passed there would be among us a lot of wild, reckless talk of war with her, accompanied by the most unblushing falsification and calumny.

But this incredible thing has actually taken place. What has been the prime cause of it? Nothing else than Japan's startling defeat of Russia. But for this the San Francisco school affair would not have

created a ripple. Before this school affair occurred, talk was becoming frequent among certain of our citizens that Japan's head had been turned, that her victory had made her conceited and ambitious of further warlike exploits, that she would soon want to turn her victorious armies and fleets against somebody, and that she was beginning to look with lustful eyes on the Philippines and Hawaii. The San Francisco episode, in which Japan asked nothing except that simple human justice be done to her citizens coming here, gave this growing spirit of suspicion and calumny, on the part of the strife hunters and the navy promoters, an opening fully to vent itself, and the outcome has been one of the most humiliating and disgraceful phenomena to which we have been treated for many a day.

As to the facts about Japan and the amazement and pain which she has experienced by reason of what has been calumniously said and written in this country about her, we refer our readers to an extended article in this number entitled "The Truth About Japan," most of which is taken from recent utterances of Rev. John DeForest, for thirty-three years a missionary in Japan, who knows the spirit of the Japanese people as probably no other American does.

What we are trying here to impress is, that this calumny and reckless talk of war is in part the logical penalty which Japan has had to pay for her war against Russia. In spite of all the efforts of her "Elder Statesmen" and responsible public men to the contrary, the war with its dramatic victories produced among her people enough of the boastful, clamorous spirit of war to affect badly certain newspapers and sections of the people, and these vented themselves now in one direction, now in another, the United States betimes coming in for her share of the abuse and threats.

Everything possible has been done, in season and out of season, by the Japanese government and responsible public men, to suppress this spirit of violence and resentment at home; but it got noised abroad in this country that such a spirit was expressing itself among certain sections of the Japanese people and papers, and the effect has been like that of fire touched to a tinder box. The imaginations of our war-mongers and big-navy promoters became inflamed, and they have magnified and terribly exaggerated—inexcusably and wickedly exaggerated—what was going on in Japan, until it has become